

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 462
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor, support and thank the soldiers of the 278th ACR, Tennessee National Guard, for their meritorious service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee National Guard Unit 278 ACR, out of Lafayette, Tennessee, was organized April 1, 1983, as Detachment 1, 1175th Quartermaster Company; it was put on alert for Desert Shield August 24, 1990, activated for Operation Desert Storm September 23, 1990, and returned home June 22, 1991; and

WHEREAS, in March 1995, the unit was reorganized as Detachment 2, Troop B Support Squadron, 278th Cavalry Regiment; on March 1, 2004, the unit was put on alert for Operation Iraqi Freedom and was activated for that operation June 11, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the unit trained until November, 2004, was deployed to Kuwait on November 20, 2004, and arrived in Iraq on December 12, 2004; some 72 members of the 278th are presently in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard Unit 278 ACR have proudly carried forward and enhanced this State's reputation for bravery and volunteerism throughout its exemplary term of service in Southwest Asia; and

WHEREAS, these intrepid men and women from Tennessee are unselfishly paying the price of freedom for their families, friends and all of us as they sacrifice their time, safety and personal desires; and

WHEREAS, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, these gallant soldiers are serving in Southwest Asia on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, just as they have left behind the enduring warmth of family and home; and

WHEREAS, their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, we extend our most heartfelt support and empathy to the families of the 278 ACR, Tennessee National Guard; we stand in solidarity with them, offering space in our hearts and moments in our days to remember their loved ones serving so far from home; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of the 278 ACR, Tennessee National Guard, who are engaged in preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they are making untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we express our stalwart support for and express our deepest pride in the members of the 278 ACR, Tennessee National Guard of Lafayette, as they serve and defend this State, our nation and the world as a whole as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Southwest Asia, extend to them our sincere hope for a swift and peaceful tour of duty filled with honor, and offer our fervent prayers for the safe return of these soldiers to their homes and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.